



Avoid the 30 Riverside County PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 26, 2011

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WINTER HOLIDAY AVOID DUI CAMPAIGN – SECOND MONDAY UPDATE

DUI Arrests Down & DUI Fatalities Up

The Winter Holiday Anti-DUI crackdown has resulted in a significant number of DUI arrests from local routine traffic enforcement and special Avoid the 30 DUI deployments overnight in Riverside County.

From 12:01 AM, Friday, December 16, 2011, through Midnight, Sunday, December 25, 2011, officers representing 30 Riverside County law enforcement agencies have arrested 266 individuals for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In 2010, 337 DUI arrests occurred during the same ten day time period.

Tragically, there have been three deaths attributed to a drunk or impaired driver in Riverside County. Last year, there were two alcohol related deaths during this same time period. (**NOTE: These numbers are only provisional with some agencies yet to report**)

Over the next several days of the campaign, DUI checkpoints will be conducted in the cities of Coachella, Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Palm Desert and Temecula. Extra DUI saturation patrols will be deployed in the cities of Banning, Beaumont, Blythe, Coachella, Lake Elsinore, Lake Perris, Menifee, Moreno Valley, Riverside and San Jacinto. California Highway Patrol is deploying all available officers during their Maximum Enforcement Period. In addition, all regularly scheduled traffic and patrol officers will focus efforts at stopping and arresting DUI drivers during their normal shifts during the 17-day Winter Holiday Campaign.

Police officers, sheriff deputies and the CHP encourage all motorists to help law enforcement: Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911. **The Auto Club (AAA) sponsors a complimentary Topsy Tow service on New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July, which offers free rides to drivers who have been drinking. Ask for a Topsy Tow by calling 1-800-400-4AAA (4222).**

DUI arrest data collection will continue through New Year's Weekend, midnight Sunday, January 1, 2012. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

MEDIA NOTES: Please visit the AVOID website at www.californiaavoid.org for more information on the campaign's DUI enforcement and statistical data on DUI arrests and DUI fatal crashes from earlier enforcement efforts. Checkpoint locations, saturation patrols and ride-a-longs will be made available to the media. For Riverside County Avoid the 30 program information and results, visit avoidthe30.org or look for us on Facebook. To schedule an interview regarding anti-drunk driving efforts, or to request a ride-along with law enforcement during the holiday period, please contact Sergeant Skip Showalter at 951-351-6046 or via email at sshowalter@riversideca.gov

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